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ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, DALLAS COUNTY, ALA.,

AUGUST 10TH & 11TH, 1897.

H. S. D. MALLORY, Moderator, Selma, Ala.
J. F. SAVELL, Secretary, Selma, Ala.
M. H. TRAYLOR, Treasurer, Benton, Ala.

The next meeting will be held with Town Creek Baptist Church on Tuesday after the second Sunday in August, 1898.

☞Any money for State, Home or Foreign Missions may be sent to Dr. W. C. Bledsoe, Montgomery, Ala. Any money for Ministerial Education may be sent to Dr. C. C. Jones, Treasurer of Howard College, East Lake, Ala.

ALABAMA PRINTING CO. MONTGOMERY.

MINUTES.

FIRST DAY—Morning Session.

The Selma Baptist Association assembled at 10 o'clock a. m. with Pleasant Hill Baptist church, Tuesday, Aug. 10th, 1897.

Prayer service was led by Dr. J. B. Powell.

After prayer and singing and the reading of the 67th Psalm, H. S. D. Mallory called the body to order, and appointed the Committee on Credentials as follows:

A. J. Dickinson, Marion Traylor and H. J. Yates.

The Association engaged in singing while the Committee prepared a report, as follows:

Ash Creek—

Benton—E. S. Martin, W. H. May, R. Summerlin.

Center Ridge—Jos. Swink, Henry Y. Yates, Pickens Skinner.

Selma, Second Church—J. F. Savell, W. W. Norris.

Town Creek—J. B. Powell, T. E. Whatley, Boadin Hardy, G. A. Feulner, E. L. Stewart, R. S. Ellis.

Sister Springs—W. D. S. Morgan, A. J. Day, M. L. Rumble, Jas. S. Hooper, Chas. Hooper.

Collirine—A. Edwards, W. J. Franklin, S. A. Gordon, D. E. Lyon, J. T. Arnold.

Shiloh—P. W. Johnson, R. D. Stone, J. B. Hain, W. V. Hatcher, D. B. Edwards, Sr.

Providence—Lewis Johnson, W. E. Purifoy, L. W. Moseley, D. F. Moseley, W. L. Moseley.

Pleasant Hill—J. M. Bailey, J. P. Maxwell, John Stringer, F. C. Riggs, Charlie L. Butler.

Selma, First Church—H. S. D. Mallory, W. L. Ward, A. J. Dickinson, Law Lamar.

New Bethel—T. S. Haygood, Wm. Palmer, J. H. Strickland.

Mt. Gilead—M. H. Traylor, W. E. Martin, A. D. Lawhon, James Bryant, George Ernst.

Mt. Willing—W. N. Roy, O. A. Coleman, C. J. Lockin, J. R. Whittle, J. E. Long.

Orrville—R. B. Fore, Rev. I. A. White, H. L. Dudley, B. F. Ellis, W. T. Cowan.

Then the following officers were elected for the present session:

H. S. D. Mallory, Moderator.
Marion Traylor, Treasurer.
J. F. Savell, Secretary.

The Order of Business as printed in the Alabama Baptist was then adopted:

PROGRAM SELMA ASSOCIATION.

10 a. m.: Organization, and report of Committee on Credentials.
10:15 a. m.: Report of Committee on Program, and reception of visiting brethren.
10:30 a. m.: Introductory sermon—I. A. White.
11:30 a. m.: Report of Committee on Sunday Schools—F. M. Stillwell.
12:30 p. m.: Intermission of two hours.
2:30 p. m.: Education—General, J. M. Fortune; 3:30 Ministerial, I. A. White.
4:30 p. m.: Literature—Law Lamar.
5:00 p. m.: Miscellaneous business.
8:15 p. m.: Worship.
Wednesday, 9:30 a. m.: Devotional Exercises—J. B. Powell.
10 a. m.: Reports on Missions—(1) State Missions, W. A. Parker; (2) Home Missions, J. B. Powell; (3) Foreign Missions, W. A. Parker; (4) Missionary sermon, A. J. Dickinson.
12:30 p. m.: Intermission of two hours.
2:30 p. m.: Report on Temperance—A. J. Dickinson.
3 p. m.: Report on Woman's Missions—Paul Carson.
3:30 p. m.: Report on Orphans' Home—Alfred Edwards.
4 p. m.: Report on Finance and Nominations.
4:15 p. m.: Report on Time and Place.
4:30 p. m.: Report on Apportionment.
4:45 p. m.: Report on State of Religion in the Churches.
5:15 p. m.: Report on Miscellaneous Business, and adjournment.
8:15 p. m.: Sermon by appointment.

A. J. Dickinson,
I. A. White,
W. A. Parker,
H. A. Haralson,
Committee.

The Association then recognized the following visiting brethren:

Dr. D. W. Ramsey and J. F. Fore, from Pine Barren Association.
H. H. Sturgis, from Wekiva Association (Florida).
Prof. W. D. Fonville and S. J. Catts, from Tuskegee Association.
J. E. Barnes, from Cahaba Association.

After singing "Rock of Ages," I. A. White read Phil. 1st chapter and preached the introductory sermon from the 29th and 30th verses.

"On Jordan's Stormy Banks" was sung at the close of the sermon.

Bro. Dickinson led in prayer.

Report on Sunday Schools was read by J. W. Bailey, as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

To the Selma Association of Baptist Churches, convened at Pleasant Hill, Ala., August 10th, 1897:

The International Sunday School Association, whose Lesson Committee of forty (representatives of all evangelical churches) prepares, in advance, the lesson subjects and general notes thereon as used by the Sunday Schools of all Christian countries, is now so well known that the work of extending its organization has been taken up in every one of our States, and in Alabama forty-nine of the sixty-six counties are now thoroughly organized into county and district associations.

This Association is inter-denominational, and its object is co-operation in the introduction of new and better methods of teaching, and organization of Christian forces, adding strength and the stimulus of greater numbers to advance the work. It is succeeding. Every world's, State, county and district convention testifies to the fact.

The recent Dallas County Convention at Plantersville, on July 14th, brought together between 600 and 800 people interested in Sunday School improvement. The best literature and lesson helps, as published by the various denominations, is made easy to obtain. The best methods of teaching primary classes are exemplified. Addresses upon important topics are made, and the discussions which follow discover the needs of the work and supply the remedies. Statistics are furnished, and comparisons drawn, encouraging the active sections and stimulating the passive to greater effort. The result is the reaching of destitute places, the opening of new schools, the open school every Sunday in the year, the attendance of parents as well as children, and a notable increase of general attendance and interest.

The Sunday School is the work-shop of the church; it does manufacturing and repairing, and the raw material used is precious metal, and the finished product is a golden crown that the artisan in this

labor of love shall wear as a reward forever.

That denomination which takes the most active and helpful part in this organized work will receive the greatest benefit. On the second Saturday in October a house-to-house Sunday School canvass is going to be made in every organized county in the State. This is a special opportunity for Baptists. Let them make the most of it. The Baptists are numerically stronger than any other denomination within the bounds of the Selma Association, the State, and in most every section of the State. Let this advantage be increased in every right way. Let there be an awakening of the pastors, renewing their zeal in support of the work; and Baptist people everywhere will rally, and Sunday Schools will become what they are designed to be, namely, the work-shop of the church, and a great revival will sweep the country.

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. Stillwell,
G. W. Burt,
A. D. Lawhon,
J. W. Bailey,
Committee.

By request, Dr. Ramsey led the discussion, and was followed by reports from the several schools by their respective delegates.

Bro. Yates reported for Carlowville.

Bro. Traylor reported for Mt. Gilead.

Bro. Hare reported for Orrville.

Bro. Maxwell reported for Pleasant Hill.

Bro. O. A. Coleman reported for Mt. Willing.

Bro. Moseley reported for Providence.

Bro. P. Johnson reported for Shiloh.

Bro. Dunklin reported for Collirine.

Bro. Jas. Hooper reported for Sister Springs.

Bro. Whatley reported for Town Creek.

Bro. Will Norris reported for Second church, Selma.

Bro. W. L. Ward reported for First church, Selma.

Bro. W. A. Parker reported for Benton.

Bro. T. S. Haygood reported for New Bethel.

Bro. Prince (M. E.) reported for Macedonia.

The pastor and deacons of Pleasant Hill were then appointed a Committee on Devotional Exercises, and the Association adjourned, with prayer, for dinner.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association re assembled at 2:30 p. m.

After song service and prayer by J. M. Fortune, the report on Education in General was read, and then the report on Ministerial Education was read, and the two were discussed jointly by the following brethren: Fortune, White, Dickinson, Parker, Sr., and Fonville. Reports then adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Education, in its broadest application, is the developing, training and disciplining of all the faculties—physical, intellectual and moral, and the imparting of such information as will prepare one for the duties and privileges of this life, and for entrance into that life which is to come.

This development, training and discipline should be begun early in the child's life. The sooner the better. The home is the child's first school. In the home it receives its first lessons, and its first and most lasting impressions. Its parents are its first teachers. It is not necessary to urge the fact of parental responsibility. The foundation for everyone's character is laid in this home school.

When the time comes to send a child from home to school, too much care in the selection of teachers and of the school cannot be exercised. None but competent Christian teachers, of real merit, should be employed, and none but schools of a high moral character should be patronized. The character and not the cost of education is of greatest importance. The cost is the thing of least importance, and should be the last thing considered in choosing a school for our children.

We cannot too strongly urge our people to patronize our own excellent schools—the Howard College, at East Lake, for boys, and the Judson Female Institute, at Marion, for girls. The work done by these institutions is equaled by few schools of similar grade and surpassed by none.

We rejoice to report the Judson out of debt, and many additions and improvements are being made in that already splendid institution. Also that the bonded debt of Howard College has been reduced and refunded at a reduced interest, for five and ten years, and the notes due the college returned to the trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. FORTUNE,
Chairman.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

By Ministerial Education we mean the mental, moral and physical discipline and training of those whom God has called to preach the gospel. That this is the most important enterprise fostered by us as a denomination is a truism, for every other interest of the gospel and of us as a people sustains to it a most vital relationship. God gave his ministry "for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of ministering unto the building up of the body of Christ, till we all attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a full grown man." This is a work of boundless magnitude. This knowledge can be imparted, and growth and unity and building up and perfecting achieved, only by educated, cultured, Spirit-filled men. Therefore, to neglect this interest or to support it half-heartedly is ingratitude to Christ, and it imperils the progress of the gospel and denominational perpetuity.

We have had during the past scholastic year twenty-seven ministerial students in Howard College and seven in our Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. All these are reported as young men of fine talents, who are making gratifying progress in their work of preparation.

We would call attention to the rule adopted by the Board of Ministerial Education to the effect that monies contributed for this purpose will be used as loans to students, unless designated as gifts by contributors. We would most heartily commend as worthy of your sympathy and patronage our two schools for the training of young preachers—Howard College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Respectfully submitted,

I. A. WHITE,
Chairman.

The following Committees, to report during the present Association, were appointed :

On Finance—D. B. Edwards, Sr., J. M. Bailey, R. B. Hare, D. F. Moseley, T. E. Whatley.

On Nominations—J. B. Powell, E. S. Martin, W. S. Ward, P. W. Johnson, J. P. Maxwell.

On Time and Place—Lewis Johnson, Alfred Edwards, W. G. Norris, Charles Hooper, A. J. Dickinson.

On Apportionment—A. J. Dickinson, H. J. Yates, M. H. Traylor, H. L. Dudley, L. W. Dudley, J. B. Hain, W. J. Dunklin, R. S. Ellis, J. H. Strickland.

On State of Religion in the Churches—I. A. White, O. A. Coleman, Charles Butler, W. T. Cowan.

Report on Temperance was read, and discussed by the following brethren: Catts, Sturgis, of Florida, Parker and Fortune. Adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

There is practically prohibition prevailing in all the communities in the territory of this Association, except the city of Selma. The decreased drunkenness with its attendant evils abundantly vindicate this method of dealing with the liquor problem as presented in modern society. Yet it will be impossible to reap the full benefits of these local laws so long as the city of Selma, the heart of industrial, social and religious life of this section, is also a seat of social drinking. We could wish for prohibition for Selma.

It becomes us to persevere in this good work until complete suppression of all agencies for the fostering of intemperance are suppressed. A healthy, vigorous public sentiment needs to be cultivated which will be positive both in condemning the evil and encouraging the good. Your committee therefore recommend a temperance campaign in this section during the next year, under the auspices of the Committee on Temperance to be appointed at this session, and that they be instructed and empowered to act to that end.

Our churches need also to exercise a positive discipline to the correction of the habit of drink on the part of their members, remembering that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God.

The cause is growing and we have every reason to be encouraged, and we can now see the end to this terrible evil which has wrought such ruin to the manhood of our people, the piety of saints, the homes of our families, and every cause of God.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. Dickinson,
For Committee.

Some reports not being ready, miscellaneous business came before the body.

Committee on Religious Exercises reported as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

We, your Committee on Religious Exercises, beg leave to report the following:

Preaching to-night by Dr. D. W. Ramsey, and to-morrow night by Bro. Sidney J. Catts.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor and Deacons of Pleasant Hill Church.

By motion of Bro. Dickinson, the following was adopted:

In the event that our delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention, hereafter to be elected, cannot attend that Convention, the Executive Committee shall be empowered and directed to appoint such as can go in the place of those who were elected but cannot go.

The Executive Committee to consist of the following: H. S. D. Mallory, Ben Ellis, Law Lamar, Paul Johnson and J. F. Savell.

The Association adjourned at 5 p. m. to meet at 9 o'clock the next morning.

Dr. D. W. Ramsey preached at 8 p. m. from Matt. 28:20, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

The Association met at 9:20 a. m.

Devotional exercises were led by J. B. Powell.

After singing and prayer, the 8th chapter of Hebrews was read, followed by another prayer by M. M. Wood.

The Moderator called the body to order at 9:40 a. m.

Minutes of the previous day were read and approved.

Rev. M. M. Wood, of Birmingham Association, and Col. J. T. Murfee, of Marion, were then recognized as visiting brethren.

The report on Literature was then read, and discussed by Brethren Lamar, Parker and White, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON LITERATURE.

Men and women are judged by the company they keep. May we not also judge them by the books they read? There is but little doubt that many of our young men and women have been influenced to commit crimes by reading immoral books and newspapers. Why do we find our newspapers so eager to publish all manner of crime and so seldom note the good deeds and acts? Simply because there is a demand for the former and not for the latter. Where is the remedy for this desire for bad literature? It is in the home and in the pulpit that must come this training and influence. When a mother shows as much anxiety about what her boys and girls read as she does about their clothes and personal appearance, and our preacher as anxious to have his members read their Bibles and denominational papers as he is to see his name in print, then we may expect a growing demand for good literature. Your committee urges this Association to display

more zeal in the reading of God's Word, good books and denominational papers, and then will we see men and women of noble characters and a high grade of morals.

Your committee would especially recommend and urge each family to subscribe for and read the Alabama Baptist, the Foreign Mission Journal, the Home Mission Journal and the State Mission Journal, and that our Sunday Schools patronize the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, located at Nashville.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW LAMAR,
Chairman.

Reports on Missions were then read, and discussed by Brethren Lamar, Sturgis, Dickinson, White, Parker and Mallory, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The marching orders of the Lord and Master are still as imperative as when first uttered, and are yet to be carried out.

That great command of our Lord, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" has not lost any of its force or divine authority.

The gospel is still the power of God, and is the only means by which we can ever hope to lift those who now live in the dark recesses of cruelty and woe into the Kingdom of Christ.

The heathen are just as much lost as ever. Yet we are better acquainted with their lost condition, this knowledge making our duty and responsibility vastly more imperative. Yet what are we doing as "Missionary Baptists?"

We find in the statistical table for 1896 a report of 1107 members in the Selma Association.

In the financial table for the same year the total contributions for Foreign Missions sums up some $195.90, which is a fraction less than eighteen cents per capita. Yet the Lord's capital as committed to our people reached mammoth proportions. Does not this show sloth, indifference or parsimony? Brethren, what is it? The answer is left to truth and conscience. But there is a bright side. The great Baptist host went up to Wilmington in May last, and, by an earnest and united effort, freed our Foreign Board from the shackles of debt, and now comes the tidings that the work is prospering, and the general outlook is full of hope.

We earnestly recommend, that, in the future, we be more liberal in giving of our means for the great cause of Foreign Missions.

S. W. QUARLES,
JOS. WALKER,
Committee.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

It has been said, that if churches were alive to their opportunities, and as alive to best methods as individuals in private business, the world could be brought to Christ before another decade passes away.

There are various methods in the minds of thinking Christians to bring about this end, and we are happy to report that method, united with persistent effort, has lifted the entire debt hanging over the "Home Mission Board." Now, it is not so much method that we need, but more men and money to support these men, while they evangelize the home field and bring men and women into active co-operation with the church of Christ.

The blessings of God have rested on the labors of the Board during the year. Every effort has been attended by the influence of the Divine Spirit. Yet even this does not alter the tremendous fact that, within the limits of the "Home Field," in some of our cities, men are as destitute of the gospel as the veriest heathen in the "free Congo State."

But a few years ago there came from Louisiana a cry that 250,000 of the men and women of that state were without the gospel, and about the same time investigation proved that the single city of St. Louis had a larger destitution than the whole State of Georgia, and there has not been much advance made in either. To procure the money needed our churches must be imbued with the spirit of missions and lifted out of that low and selfish view of religion so prevalent among them. In short, we must reach about one million Baptists in our churches who never give one cent, thus ignoring alike the commands of the Savior and the needs of men perishing in sin.

"During the century from 1790 to 1890 the United States increased in population from about 4,000,000 to 64,000,000. During the same time the Baptists increased from 65,000 to 3,700,000. The nation increased sixteen fold, the Baptists increased fifty-six fold—nearly four times as fast as the population. In the light of these facts the coming century is luminous with glory. A little over 100 years ago we were only 1 in 61 of population. Now, one in seventeen."

Certainly, if we are to hold our position and make progress we must arise to the magnificence of the hour. We must pray, and work and give, and I know of no fitter place for the imperial clarion to sound the forward movement than in this body of Baptists gathered here to-day. Baptists ought to control this fair land of ours. Divine blessing can bring about this end, and fidelity to truth and duty on our part will insure it. Let us then go forth in the "spirit of the Master," in "His power," laboring for the redemption of our own country from the power of sin.

J. B. POWELL,
Chairman.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The State Board of Missions in Montgomery has direct charge of the raising of missionary funds in Alabama. In this capacity it represents Home and Foreign Missions as well as State Missions. The work of the Board is manifold.

1. It still maintains missionary pastors at a few weak points where help is absolutely necessary to the life of our cause in such communities. Such points as the Second church, Selma, the South Montgomery and Greensboro churches are still aided, but there is every prospect that the cause will very soon be self-sustaining at all of these points.

2. It prosecutes the general work of evangelism all over the State of Alabama. It has in its employ six evangelists distributed over the State, viz: Bro. Preston, in Southeast Alabama; Bro. G. S. Anderson, in East Alabama; Bro. A. . Burns, in North Alabama; Bro. Sanderlin, in Northwest Alabama; Bro. J. V. Dickinson in and around Birmingham, and Bro. W. A. Parker in Southwest Alabama. These brethren go wherever occasion most requires in their several sections, holding meetings, preaching the gospel, advocating missions, fostering the spirit of fellowship and co-operation between the churches in the worship and work of our Lord, strengthening the weak points and enlisting the indifferent. We have great reason to rejoice over the success of our evangelists whom God has so richly blessed in this work. The prospect of a united, active, healthy fellowship of our people and a hearty co-operation in Christian service was never so bright before.

3. Whenever the field has given promise of success the Board has also done some colportage work. However, the urgency of other lines has absorbed the means of the Board to such an extent as to greatly preclude much expenditure along this line. Yet the little attempted has proven remunerative and in every way satisfactory.

4. The Board also publishes monthly The State Mission Journal as its organ to keep the work of the Board before the people and their interest therein alive and vigorous. Every Baptist in Alabama ought to subscribe for this paper and keep himself up and in sympathy and co-operation with his brethren in this common work. It costs only 50 cents per year to secure its monthly visits.

5. This Board has ever been the center of denominational life, the rallying point of the brotherhood, the agency of affiliation for the churches; and, as such, is of incalculable benefit to the developing and enriching of the communion and fellowship of the saints, in building them up in such relations into the body of Christ. Your own soul will be the poorer if you do not avail yourself of this opportunity to enjoy your brethren. To put each Baptist into proper per-

sonal relation to every other as fellow workers in the Master's cause, and fellow helpers of the truth is a blessed work. To bring the churches to love and help and enjoy each other in all the lines of interchurch fellowship is an end inspiring and divinely enjoined. Let us, therefore, give the State Board of Missions our hearty support and fervent prayers.

A. J. DICKINSON,
For Committee.

At 11 a. m. the Association sang "I love to tell the story."

W. A. Parker, Sr., read John 4:1-42, and preached the missionary sermon from Matt. 9:38.

After the sermon a collection was taken for Missions, amounting to $22.50.

M. M. Wood, Financial Agent of Howard College, was then introduced, and addressed the Association in behalf of the school.

At 1:50 p. m. the Association adjourned for dinner, with prayer.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2:30 p. m. the Association joined in song and prayer service, Dr. Ramsey leading.

The Moderator called the assembly to order, and Bro. White offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Bro. Frank Averyt's application for financial aid be referred to the Executive Committee of the Association, who shall hear his statement and take such action as the virtue of the case demands.

The report on Orphans' Home was then read, and discussed by Brethren Edwards, Murfee, Ramsey, White, Powell and Dickinson. A collection of $11.78 was taken for the Home, and the report adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

Seven years ago Mrs. M. L. B. Woodson, a member of the First Baptist church in Selma, proposed to give all her real estate to the Baptists of Alabama for the maintenance of a Baptist Orphanage in Alabama, to be available after her death. Soon after this she deeded her real estate to the denomination for this purpose. On the 10th day of

March, 1893, in a small rented house, the Home opened to three little orphan children. When the Convention met in Greenville the following fall the number of children had grown to twenty-two. The time had come to give the Orphanage a permanent home, so the trustees purchased some valuable property and located the home at Evergreen. Into this Home have been gathered seventy children; thirty-three were boys and thirty-seven girls. The management has sent out thirty two—sixteen boys and sixteen girls. There are now thirty-eight children in the Home—seventeen boys and twenty-one girls. The health of the children is good—there has never been a death in the Home. The children are under firm, loving control, and are given a practical education and taught to do various kinds of work.

The purchase price of the Home has all been paid, and important improvements are now being made as means are secured to make such improvements. Money is needed to complete this work, and meet current expenses. The current expenses are a little more than $200 per month. A few churches and Sunday Schools take collections regularly for this work. We recommend that the churches and Sunday Schools of this Association adopt this plan for raising money for the support of the helpless little children gathered in this Home.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Edwards,
Chairman.

Bro. Wood, of Howard College, then called attention to the importance of getting all the statistics of the churches correct, since they are used by several publishing houses.

The report of Bro. Edwards on Finance was then adopted. (See back of minutes).

Report on Nominations was next received:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

To preach Introductory Sermon—J. F. Savell.

To preach Missionary Sermon—J. T. Kendrick.

Delegates to State Convention—Brethren J. W. Bailey, T. E. Whatley, P. W. Johnson, W. G. Norris, W. L. Ward, E. S. Martin, A. D. Lawhon, G. W. Coker, Lewis Johnson and E. Lyon.

Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention—J. M. Fortune; alternate, W. A. Parker, Jr. Respectfully submitted,

J. B. Powell,
For Committee.

Next the report on Time and Place:

REPORT ON TIME AND PLACE.

We recommend Tuesday after the second Sunday in August, 1898. Place, Town Creek church.

Respectfully submitted,

LEWIS JOHNSON,
Chairman.

Report on Apportionment was adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT.

CHURCHES.	Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Orphans' Home.	TOTALS.
Selma, First church	$ 500 00	$ 50 00	$ 120 00	$ 670 00
Ash Creek	10 00	5 00	5 00	20 00
Benton	15 00	5 00	5 00	25 00
Bethany	30 00	10 00	10 00	50 00
Center Ridge	30 00	10 00	10 00	50 00
Mt. Gilead	60 00	20 00	20 00	100 00
Hopewell	25 00	10 00	5 00	40 00
Orrville	150 00	25 00	25 00	200 00
Pleasant Hill	60 00	20 00	20 00	100 00
Providence	75 00	25 00	10 00	110 00
Selma, Second church	35 00	20 00	5 00	60 00
Sister Springs	10 00	5 00	5 00	15 00
Shiloh	50 00	10 00	10 00	70 00
Town Creek	80 00	15 00	50 00	145 00
Macedonia	5 00	5 00	5 00	15 00
New Bethel	5 00	5 00	5 00	15 00
Ruhama	5 00	5 00	5 00	15 00
TOTALS	$1140 00	$ 245 00	$ 315 00	$1700 00

Respectfully submitted.

A. J. DICKINSON,
Chairman.

Report on Condition of Churches was received, after being amended:

REPORT ON CONDITION OF CHURCHES.

Your committee on Religious State of Churches would submit the following: We think the churches in a fairly healthful condition spiritually. Many of the churches report recent series of meetings and gracious out-pourings of the Spirit of God. All but one report

Sunday Schools, and nearly all maintain weekly prayer-meetings. All appear to be liberal contributors to the benevolent interests of our denomination. We find that of the thirteen churches reporting to this Association, there have been 35 baptisms, with a net increase of 37 members throughout the Association. We regret that so few subscribers (about 30) to our State papers are reported.

Respectfully submitted,

I. A. WHITE,
Chairman.

AMENDMENT.

That Brethren I. A. White, J. F. Savell and J. B. Powell be appointed a committee to have held meetings in the interest of general missionary and evangelical work each fifth Sunday and Saturday preceding during the coming associational year.

Churches were then called and the delegates gave reports of their respective churches, in regard to their spiritual condition.

Committees to report in 1898 were then announced, as follows:

STANDING COMMITTEES TO REPORT IN 1898.

On State Missions—A. J. Dickinson, F. C. Riggs, M. H. Traylor, W. L. Ward, W. N. Norris.

On Home Missions—I. A. White, Paul W. Johnson, R. S. Ellis, Charles Hooper, W. T. Cowan.

On Foreign Missions—J. M. Fortune, L. W. Moseley, John Stringer, F. S. Haygood, E. S. Martin.

On Sunday Schools—Law Lamar, Henry Wyley, W. J. Dunklin, O. A. Coleman, R. B. Hare.

On Temperance—Lewis Johnson, Joseph Swink, Henry J. Yates, A. J. Day, E. L. Stewart.

On Education—J. B. Powell, T. E. Whatley, W. E. Purifoy, Chas. Butler.

On Ministerial Education—J. J. Kendrick, J. M. Bailey, Jack Dudley, J. T. Arnold.

On Literature—J. F. Savell, J. B. Hain, O. A. Coleman, H. L. Dudley, Pickens Skinner.

On Woman's Work—Alfred Edwards, W. L. Moseley, J. P. Maxwell, J. H. Strickland, W. M. Palmer.

On Orphans' Home—D. B. Edwards, Sr., S. A. Gordon, J. A. Whittle, H. L. Dudley, Boadie Hardy.

The Association then instructed the Executive Committee to prepare a program for next year.

The Treasurer was instructed to turn over the money for minutes to the Secretary. Any other funds on hand that were to go through the hands of the Board to be handed to W. A. Parker, Sr., who represented the Board.

Some general remarks were then made by Bro. Murfee.

The Secretary reported as follows:

Received for minutes	$26 60
Printing and mailing minutes, and stationery	18 10
For Secretary's services	$ 8 50

A vote of thanks was tendered to the people of Pleasant Hill for their hospitality.

The Treasurer's report was then received:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

M. H. Traylor, Treasurer,
In account with the Selma Baptist Association.

1896.	Dr.		
Aug. 13.	To am't collected for Orphans' Home	$20 00	
	collected after Mission Sermon	9 25	
	From Finance Committee	78 78	—$108 03
1896.	Cr.		
Aug. 13.	By Voucher No. 1, from W. C. Bledsoe	$51 13	
	Voucher No. 2, from J. W. Stewart	20 00	
	Voucher No. 3, from W. C. Bledsoe	9 25	
	Voucher No. 4, for minutes	18 10	
	Voucher No. 5, for minutes	1 50	
	Voucher No. 6, from W. C. Bledsoe	7 50	
	Postage, express, etc	55	—$108 03

Respectfully submitted,
M. H. Traylor,
Treasurer.

The Association adjourned at 5 p. m., with prayer by Bro. Catts.

H. S. D. MALLORY,
Moderator.

J. F. Savell,
Secretary.

[Note.—Preaching at night by Bro. Catts.]

RECORD OF THE SELMA ASSOCIATION.

ORGANIZED IN 1883 WITH ELEVEN CHURCHES AROUND SELMA.

YEAR.	PLACE OF MEETING.	MODERATOR.	CLERK.	TREASURER.
1883	Shiloh (organ.)	Ellis, B. F	Baker, E. F	Edwards, H.W.
1884	Mt. Gilead	Baber, E. F	Eskew, I. R	Edwards, H.W.
1885	Center Ridge	Baber, E. F	Traylor, M. H	Moseley, J. B.
1886	Providence	Baber, E. F	Eskew, I. R	Ellis, J. B.
1887	Pleasant Hill	Mallory, H. S. D	Eskew, I. R	Ellis, J. F.
1888	Town Creek	Lawhon, A. D	McIver, J. M	Ellis, J. F.
1889	Orrville	Lawhon, A. D	McIver, J. M	Ellis, J. F.
1890	Shiloh	Mallory, H. S. D	Moseley, W. F	Ellis, J. F.
1891	Mt. Gilead	Mallory, H. S. D	Moseley, W. F	Ellis, J. F.
1892	Providence	Ellis, B. F	Moseley, W. F	Ellis, J. F.
1893	Bethany	Ellis, B. F	Barnes, J. E	Ellis, J. F.
1894	Hopewell	Ellis, B. F	Barnes, J. E	Traylor, M. H.
1895	Center Ridge	Ellis, B. F	Barnes, J. E	Traylor, M. H.
1896	Benton	Mallory, H. S. D	Savell, J. F	Traylor, M. H.
1897	Pleasant Hill	Mallory, H. S. D	Savell, J. F	Traylor, M. H.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH.	STATE MISS'S		HOME MIS.		FOR. MISS'NS		MIN'L EDU'N		Howard College—Voucher.	Judson Institute—Voucher.	ORPH. HOME		Minutes.	HOME EXP'N'S.		TOTAL.
	Cash.	Voucher.	Cash.	Voucher.	Cash.	Voucher.	Cash.	Voucher.			Cash.	Voucher.		Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, the Poor, etc.	
Ash Creek	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Benton	1 15	11 75	2 00	2 15	2 00	2 50		3 45	3 65		5 00			200 00	25 00	258 65
Bethany	75	9 36	85	9 10	65	3 55	4 78	5 34	13 60	7 00			1 00		5 55	61 53
Center Ridge	50	10 97	1 15	1 00	50	5 57		2 00		12 00			1 25			34 94
Hopewell													1 30	71 10		72 40
Macedonia		6 00												17 50		23 50
Mt. Gilead		52 76						2 00	10 00	13 75		5 00	2 00			85 51
New Bethel	1 75		1 75				2 25				2 25	6 75	50			15 26
Orrville		92 21		5 00		20 00		40 60	105 00	1010 00		29 30	2 00	350 00	171 30	1826 11
Pleasant Hill		24 95		20 80					50 04	6 56			1 50	94 00	56 01	253 86
Providence		17 40	5 80	5 00	5 80	9 50		17 40			4 00		3 00	400 00	148 09	515 99
Ruhama																
Selma, 1st church		400 00				100 00		80 00	550 00	450 00		150 00	5 00	2000 00	600 00	5385 00
Selma, 2nd church									1 00				2 50	332 50	208 64	544 64
Shiloh	1 00	47 46						4 10	1 20	25 00		7 60	1 50	200 00	2 30	290 16
Sister Springs		2 66	2 00	50	2 00						2 18		1 25			11 49
Town Creek		4 70		5 50		22 10		29 00		6 00		20 00	2 50	300 00	600 00	989 80
TOTALS	$ 5 15	$ 680 22	$13 55	$49 05	$10 95	$ 163 32	$ 7 03	$ 183 89	$ 734 49	$1850 30	$13 43	$ 286 65	$25 30	$4165 10	$1896 89	$ 10468 89

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897—CONTINUED.

CHURCH.	WOMEN'S, YOUNG PEOPLE'S AND CHILDREN'S SOCIT'S.				SUNDAY SCHOOLS.				Value of Property.
	Missions.	Education.	Home Expens's	Orphans' Home	Missions.	Education.	School Expenses.	Orphans' Home.	
Ash Creek	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Benton									1000 00
Bethany					5 00	6 50		1 50	1500 00
Center Ridge	5 00		5 00						
Hopewell					15 56	61 25	45 69		
Macedonia									
Mt. Gilead			5 00	5 00		5 00		13 12	
New Bethel									
Orrville					35 00	35 00	20 47		
Pleasant Hill		5 00		21 00	1 50	22 50			1000 00
Providence					21 35	21 35			2500 00
Ruhama									
Selma, First Church									
Selma, Second Church	132 65		132 65						4000 00
Shiloh									1000 00
Sister Springs									
Town Creek	41 35		41 35		27 91	27 91			
TOTALS	$ 179 00	$ 5 00	$ 181 00	$26 00	$ 126 30	$ 179 51	$66 16	$14 62	$ 11000 00

STATISTICS OF SELMA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK AND POST-OFFICE.	S. S. SUPERINTEND'T AND POST-OFFICE.	Memb's'p last Rep't'd	INCR'SE. By Baptism.	INCR'SE. By Letter.	INCR'SE. By Voucher.	INCR'SE. By Restoration.	DECR'SE. By Letter.	DECR'SE. By Exclusion.	DECR'SE. By Erasure.	DECR'SE. By Death.	Present Membership	SUND. SCHOOL. Officers & Teach'rs	SUND. SCHOOL. Pupils.	SUND. SCHOOL. Av'age Attend'ce	SUND. SCHOOL. Bapt'z'd from S.S.	SUND. SCHOOL. Periodicals Tak'n	Preaching Sabbath.
Ash Creek	Lowndes		———, Gordonville		10															
Benton	Lowndes	W. A. Parker, Sr.	E. S. Martin, Benton	W. S. Walker, Benton	20	1	2	1		1			1	22	3	15	12	1		4th
Bethany	Lowndes	J. B. Powell	J. C. Fortune, Pleasant Hill	A. Edwards, Collirene	44					1				43	6	47	28		15	1st
Center Ridge	Dallas		R. F. Rowell, Carlowville	R. F. Rowell, Carlowville	34									34	5	30	17		33	
Mt. Gilead	Lowndes	J. B. Powell	M. H. Traylor, Benton		42						2	1		39	6	20	16		20	3rd
Hopewell*	Lowndes	W. A. Parker, Jr.	W. N. Ray, Mt. Willing	O. A. Coleman, Mt. Wil'ng	46	3	7		1	3			3	54	5	57	30	3	48	1st
Macedonia	Lowndes	W. A. Parker, Jr.	O. P. Woodruff, Macedonia		55															
New Bethel*	Lowndes	W. A. Parker, Jr.	J. R. Strickland, Braggs	J. R. Strickland, Braggs	37	5					1		1	40	5	26	20	4	20	4th
Orrville	Dallas	I. A. White	I. J. Daniel, Orrville	J. E. Dunaway, Orrville	49		3			1	1		1	49	6	56	45		85	1st & 4
Pleasant Hill*†	Dallas	J. I. Kendrick	J. R. Crumpt'n, Pleasant Hill	J. W. Bailey, Pleas'nt Hill	52	4	6	1		4			1	58				4		4th
Providence	Dallas	I. A. White	T. W. Berry, Tasso	Lewis Johnson, Orrville	71	7	1			4		1	2	72	5	25	20			2d & 4
Ruhama	Lowndes		J. E. Long, Farmersville		9															
Selma, 1st ch*†	Dallas	A. J. Dickinson	Roland Lee, Selma	W. P. Welch																every
Selma, 2nd ch†	Dallas	J. F. Savell	R. W. Barnes, Selma	J. A. Mauldin, Selma	190	5	26	4	1	10	1	6	3	206	14	110	75	5		every
Shiloh	Dallas	J. B. Powell	E. H. Liele, Sardis	Paul Johnson, Selma	52			1		2	1	1	1	48						1st
Sister Springs*†	Dallas	J. M. Fortune	J. S. Hooper, Tyler		34	6				6				34	6	20	15	2	20	1st
Town Creek*	Dallas	J. B. Powell	R. S. Ellis, Soapstone	T. E. Whatley, Soapstone	57	4	1			1	2		1	58	6	45	35	2		2d & 4
TOTALS					722	35	46	7	2	33	8	9	14	757	67	451	313	21	241	

*Reports Revival. †Reports Prayer-Meeting.